



## Parish Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Year A

### Mass Intentions

21<sup>st</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Gerald Tomkinson (RIP, Ann.) Paddy Travers (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Hayley Wright (RIP) Grażyna & Sylwia Czop (Birthday)	8.30am	Dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące (Holy Souls)
Monday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 1) People of the Parish		
Tuesday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 2) Mary Reynolds (RIP, Ann.)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 3) E.S. Daniel (RIP, Ann.)
Thursday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 4) Charles Sarpong (RIP, Ann.)		
Friday	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 5)	10.00am	Teresa Quintan (SI)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 6) Zofia Kanicka & Family (SI, for blessing)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Frank Taliana (RIP) Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 7)	8.30am	Edith Fox (RIP)



We are all familiar with the scriptural account of original sin and Adam's never to be forgotten excuse - "The woman you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit, and I ate it" and then Eve's - "the serpent tricked me". Passing the buck is not a new exercise. The real answer to temptation is within us and can only be found through a well-developed sense of discipline. Our readings today deal with this eternal conflict people experience in the choice of good over evil.

**Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7** Here we read of the choice given to people by God - your way or My way, and the consequences of a bad decision.

**Romans 5: 12-19** In this letter Paul draws a parallel between Adam and Christ - through Adam, sin entered into the equation; through Christ, redemption became possible, but only on request.

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**Matthew 4: 1-11** This reading summarises the temptations which cause people to sin - the temptation to materialism; the temptation to pride; and the temptation to power.

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest  
The Presbytery, Howard Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2NS • Tel:01279 426017

Email: [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org)

## HALLS BOOKING

**Our Lady of Fatima Hall** [olfharlow@gmail.com](mailto:olfharlow@gmail.com) 07425633193

**St Thomas More Hall** [cruzblessen@gmail.com](mailto:cruzblessen@gmail.com) 07399846607

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM:** Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

**CHURCH CLEANING:** OLF Church – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30. pm **Team B** (International Group)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** meeting for **children and parents** on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** at 5.30 pm.

**RCIA:** The next meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm in the Presbytery.

Please pray for Leah & Zan who ask for our acceptance and support as they go to celebrate the Right of Election with Bishop Alan at the Cathedral.

**CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day is on Friday 27th February 2026.**

Your support this Family Fast Day will help more of our neighbours grow enough to eat.

**The Rite of Election**, occurring on the first Sunday of Lent, is a pivotal stage in the RCIA process where catechumens (unbaptized) are formally chosen by the Church for baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. It involves signing a book of enrolment, signifying their commitment to joining the Catholic Church.

### **OLF & STM Social & Fund-raising Team**

**Unwanted Gifts:** If you have any unwanted gifts that you would like to donate to future raffles/fete/bazaar, it will be gratefully received. Please leave any donation(s) in the box provided in the foyer from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the date:** We have decided to hold our own International 5 aside men's football tournament on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Please register your team with Clara or Kay. Further details will follow in due course.

**Gift Aid Donations:** Are you a UK taxpayer and would like to register for Gift Aid, we will have the necessary forms in the foyer over the coming weeks. You can donate via Standing order or Envelopes (you can do both). For every £1.00 donated, our Parish will receive an extra 25p at no extra cost to you. Kay and or Hugh will be available to answer any questions you may have.

## **LENT**

**During Lent Friday's Mass** at Our Lady of Fatima will be at **7.00pm** followed the Stations of the Cross and at St Thomas More Church will be at **10.00am** followed the Stations of the Cross.

## **SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN**

**LECTURES 2026:** Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm All Welcome!

The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?" This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood.

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe" Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith.

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints.

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society.

**Pray for the sick:** Stephen Galagala, Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lamb, Noreen Wright, Grace Fisher, Kathleen Evans, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Mary Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanislaw Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, Mat Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Slota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alica and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls:** Maria Kunicka, Margaret Sackett, Frederick Pipkin, Gwendoline Middlecoat, Mgr David Manson, Ks. Józef Mituś, Fr Władysław Wichniarz MS, Joseph Dawood Thomas, Patricia Delahunt, Mary Patterson, May Aitken, Thomas Mulligan, Romualda Ratajczyk, Bp Thomas McMahon, Frank Taliana, Maria Cooper, Alice (Dow) Inch, Nick Cronin, Tony Poole, Mathew Joseph, Helen Noyo Owie, Br Wojciech Durlak MS, Fr Augustyn Hamielec MS, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.



## What Is Lent?

**Lent** is the penitential season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. It set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. His victory is our renewal, our "spring" — which is the meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word, "lengten" or Lent and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

**Historically**, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

**Holy Week** is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called **the Triduum** or **Pasch**—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

**Sombre colours** such as purple or ash gray are most appropriate for Lent. Shiny objects and flowers removed from the worship area.

The **Stations of the Cross**, also known as Way of the Cross, is a 14-step Catholic devotion commemorating Jesus Christ's final day on Earth, focusing on His Passion and death. It is commonly observed during Lent on Fridays and Good Friday, where Christians pray at each station, typically represented by artwork in churches. The Stations of the Cross is one of the simplest, yet powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus.

Our journey through Lent can be compared to the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land. It can be a season of grace – not an abstract journey, but a concrete path that involves seeing the world as it is.

Our Lenten journey will be concrete if we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh (slavery). A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. It divides us and robs us of our future. There remains within us desire to cling to idols that paralyse us, as Israel was paralysed in the desert.

Lent, however, is a "**season of grace, a time of conversion,**" where the desert can become "a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery.